


CITY OF SUNNYVALE
Department of Parks and Recreation

March 29, 2004

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

THROUGH: Amy Chan, City Manager 

FROM: Robert A. Walker, Director of Parks and Recreation 

SUBJECT: Cricket Play at Ortega Park

There are few, if any, park activities that do not generate some amount of citizen concern. Most of the Parks Division's controversial policy issues—whether apparent at first blush or not—are rooted in common ground. One way or another, most have something to do with one of the biggest challenges facing the parks' profession, particularly in urban areas: trying to satisfy a seemingly unlimited demand for a very limited amount of open space. This was at the heart of a recent Council study issue regarding park use and capacity, and it has a lot to do with controversies surrounding dogs on and/or off leash; turf wars among and between youth sports groups for fields; concerns regarding busloads of children accessing neighborhood playgrounds; and yes, cricket play at Ortega Park—just to name a few.

Cricket No Exception

Following a letter to the editor of The Sunnyvale Sun dated November 5, 2003, by Mr. Chuck Clark (Attachment A), staff provided Council a memo regarding cricket play at Ortega Park (Attachment B). On March 25, 2004, a member of the Birdland Neighborhood Association sent an email to that organization's list serve regarding the "use of city parks vs. the cricket clubs," identifying it as a problem which the writer hoped would cause residents to "fill the Council Chambers" on March 30 in a "show of support" (Attachment C). On March 28, 2004, Mr. Clark sent an email with attachments to the Mayor and Councilmembers titled "Fairness at Ortega Park Athletic Fields" (Attachment D).

The Birdland email is inaccurate when it states that "cricket clubs have taken over---through a rental agreement with the City—Ortega Park from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday during their season." Actually, the City only permits formal cricket play at Ortega on Sundays. The fields on which cricket is played remain "multi-purpose" in nature, and on Saturdays they are permitted by two separate youth sports groups, Metro Little League and Cupertino-Pony Baseball.

Although Ortega Park is not within the boundaries of the Birdland Neighborhood Association, the author is concerned that the rental of fields for cricket might eventually come to her neighborhood. Staff suggests that there is little likelihood of that occurring. The only reason cricket players frequent Ortega Park is because there is a formal cricket pitch at that location. It is the only permanent cricket pitch in the City, and it was installed at City Council's direction in the early 1990's. Several sites were explored by Council, but Ortega Park was determined to be the most practical location for a permanent cricket pitch. Sites such as Raynor Park

(Birdland's neighborhood park) are simply not large enough to accommodate a cricket pitch and were never seriously considered. Ortega Park is, by the way, the second-largest neighborhood park in the City (Las Palmas is the largest). Staff has no plans to propose an additional cricket pitch anywhere within the City.

When it comes to public policy, reasonable people can disagree on what is and isn't reasonable. Staff has communicated many times with the Clarks, and we have essentially agreed to disagree. The Parks and Recreation Commission was approached by the Clarks, and it has chosen not to pursue the matter further. The Clarks do not believe the general public has sufficient access to open space at Ortega Park on Sundays from April to September. Staff believes it does, even on Sundays, regardless of permitted cricket play. And this is the crux of the matter—all other issues become moot if, in fact, local residents have sufficient space to recreate.

Staff received Mr. Clark's March 28 email today and wanted to respond prior to tomorrow night's Council meeting. Staff has not, therefore, taken time to respond to each and every point made by Mr. Clark. Suffice to say, staff does not agree with much of Mr. Clark's logic, his assessment of current conditions, or the conclusions that he draws. This is not to suggest that Mr. Clark is *wrong*. Staff has recently fielded a number of concerns from an individual living at Avalon Apartments regarding the amount of noise emanating from the Fair Oaks Skate Park. To that resident, the noise is clearly unacceptable. Staff has visited the site on numerous occasions, however, and fails to appreciate the problem. It's a matter of perspective. Councilmembers wishing to pursue the cricket issue further are encouraged to visit Ortega Park on a Sunday between the months of April and October to gain insight into what actually occurs, to experience the amount of space available for local residents and to formulate their own perceptions regarding what is reasonable. In matters such as this, first-hand experience is invaluable.

Bottom Line

Staff remains prepared to take whatever action Council might direct with regard to cricket play at Ortega Park but does not recommend any change in current policy. Staff has been in communication with the cricket club to discuss the Clarks' concerns (Attachment E) and to explore the practical implications of adding signs at Ortega Park prohibiting any cricket play (even drop-in) on Saturdays.

RAW/ks

Attachments

cc: Amy Chan, City Manager
Curtis Black, Superintendent of Parks
John Lawrence, Superintendent of Recreation
Nancy Bolgard Steward, Superintendent of Arts & Recreation
Parks and Recreation Commission
Birdlands Neighborhood Association
Chuck and Floryse Clark



November 5, 2003 Sunnyvale, California Since 1994

Letters & Opinions

Local residents want to share Ortega Park

Approximately 300 citizens near Sunnyvale's Ortega Park have signed a petition seeking a change in the city's policy that currently allows a very small number of people to unfairly dominate the use of the Ortega Park athletic field on Sundays.

Currently, a cricket club occupies the entire multipurpose field 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 18 of 25 Sundays from April through September. That is grossly unfair to Sunnyvale families who would like to have access to their neighborhood park and who are forced to go elsewhere for athletic activities.

Our local park has been turned into a cricket stadium.

A single cricket game requires a great deal of time and a huge amount of real estate. The large Ortega multipurpose athletic field has two full-sized baseball fields as well as additional areas for other activities. But on Sundays, the entire field is consumed by only 22 players in a single six-hour game! Consequently, the average use of the field is incredibly small—three people per hour.

All other sports hosted at Ortega allow families and other sports to simultaneously enjoy a portion of the field.

Our neighborhood parks are funded by us taxpayers to be shared fairly by sports activities and local families, not to be turned into sports venues.

Almost unanimously, local residents agree that the situation is unfair and want the field to be shared on Sundays. The best solution is to open one-half of the field to public use (without needing a permit) from noon to dusk every Sunday. For those periods, no full-field permits will be granted and no organized activity will consume more than one-half of the athletic field.

We ask our city council to support the policy change and take action on behalf of residents interested in fairness and sharing.

—Chuck Clark, *Sunnyvale*



CITY OF SUNNYVALE
Department of Parks and Recreation

November 11, 2003

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Parks and Recreation Commission

THROUGH: Robert S. LaSala, City Manager

FROM: Robert A. Walker, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Cricket Play at Ortega Park

Cricket Concerns

You may have seen the attached letter to the editor in The Sunnyvale Sun ("Local Residents Want to Share Ortega Park"—November 5, 2003), wherein Chuck Clark asks City Council to open one-half of Ortega Park's athletic fields to non-reservable public use from noon to dusk every Sunday.

Mr. Clark's request is predicated on an assumption that the current use of the athletic field by cricket players on Sundays from April through October precludes the general public from accessing the park. This is a concern Floryse Clark has expressed many times since the year 2000, when she first indicated that local children were unable to find any place to play frisbee or fly kites in the park on Sundays due to cricket play. Staff investigated (bringing our own children to the park during cricket play) and found no merit to this claim. Please bear in mind the following facts:

- Ortega Park and Stockmeier School (they are contiguous to one another) comprise over 21 acres of open space.
- The cricket players use the majority of the 9-acre athletic field on the western edge of Ortega Park.
- These nine acres did not become City property and were not maintained by the City until 1989.

- Even during cricket play, children and others can access the remaining 12 acres of open space, which includes the entire old park site (Ortega Park used to be just 8.5 acres in size) as well as Stockmeier School's open space. There is ample space to fly kites, toss balls or frisbees, have picnics, access playgrounds, play tennis, basketball, and/or otherwise recreate.

Mrs. Clark has reiterated her concerns on several occasions over the years, and staff has informed her regarding the City's Parks and Recreation Commission and Council's Study Issue process. She has also made contact with several Councilmembers, past and present.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Clark claimed to have fallen on the cricket pitch on several occasions and was referred to the City's Risk and Insurance Manager (staff inspected the pitch and found no hazardous conditions).

Other Factors to Keep in Mind/Relevant Issues

- The Parks and Recreation Commission has not been asked to review or respond to the Clarks' concerns regarding cricket play at Ortega Park nor to advise City Council on this matter.
- Cricket has far less of an impact on this neighborhood's access to Ortega Park than soccer at numerous school sites has on other neighborhoods. Precluding cricket at Ortega for the reasons cited by Mr. Clark could set a dangerous precedent in this regard.
- Restricting cricket players to one-half the athletic field would be like restricting baseball players to the infield only; it simply isn't practical.
- Similarly, restricting cricket play to one-half the day would be like telling golfers they can use the course for two hours only—real cricket matches take days to play. The cricket club has already made concessions to their sport's traditions and regulations in this regard.
- It was a Council action that created the cricket pitch at Ortega Park---cultural diversity was, and remains, an important issue.
- There are no other cricket pitches in the City of Sunnyvale. Cricket play requires a large open space (approximately the size of two full soccer fields laid side by side). Staff examined all open spaces during the original search for a cricket site, eliminating all but a handful of sites based solely on the ability to accommodate

the required field dimensions. Further analysis identified Ortega Park as the most suitable location.

- The cricket club generally plays on Sundays only (with minor exceptions) and from April to October.
- If cricket was excluded from the field, it would be permitted by soccer (AYSO youth soccer gave these fields up when Council acted to support cricket at Ortega), and they would also preclude the general public from the fields for the better part of the day.
- Most cricket use is by the Sunnyvale Cricket Club, but there is no regulation precluding other clubs from permitting the cricket pitch at other times.
- When the athletic fields are not reserved, they are open to the general public on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Cricket players are as welcome to use the field under this doctrine as any other group or individual (i.e., precluding reserved cricket would not preclude pick-up cricket play).
- Permitted (reserved) cricket play provides a revenue stream to the City—they pay \$25 an hour for the privilege of reserving the field and that fee helps subsidize other recreational programs.

This information is provided as background only, as staff is aware that Councilmembers are being contacted regarding this subject. Staff intends to take no further action regarding current practices surrounding cricket play unless otherwise directed by City Council.

RAW/ks

Attachment

c: Curtis Black, Superintendent of Parks
John Lawrence, Recreation Superintendent
Council Elect

ATTACHMENT C

From: Coryn Campbell
To: Walker, Robert
Date: 3/25/04 10:32:04 AM
Subject: Fwd: [BirdlandNeighbors] RE: CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Robert,
The e-mail below was included in this morning's Birdlands Neighborhood list serve.
FYI,
Coryn

Coryn Campbell
Manager, IGR/Neighborhood & Community Services
City of Sunnyvale
Ph (408) 730-7475
FAX (408) 730-7696

<http://www.ci.sunnyvale.gov>
ccampbell@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

>>> "Judy Dietrich" <jdietric@sesd.org> 03/25/2004 8:45:51 AM >>>

On March 30, under "Public Comments" speakers will address the issue of the "use of city parks" vs the cricket clubs. For those who attended the candidates' night held in October, we heard about the problem at Ortega, which also brought out a concern about the overall use of our city parks. At Ortega, cricket clubs have taken over – through a rental agreement with the City – Ortega Park from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday during their season, which runs about 6-7 months as I recall. They put out red cones to block access and do not even allow citizens to use the area during the game lunch breaks. The speakers want the City to address this problem as these clubs are not even comprised of Sunnyvale residents. Their first preference, of course, is to not provide the agreements and have them move back to their own cities of residency. A compromise would be to only allow ½ day usage. This year the clubs are even taking over Ortega for practice several nights a week. The speakers, and the others at the candidates' night, also agreed we don't want this problem just moved from Ortega to another city park – that there should be an overall policy regarding how much time groups can "rent" our park open space. If you are in agreement with this, or just want to hear more, we are looking to "fill the Council Chambers" with residents and are asking that you come to this meeting on March 30 @ 7:30 p.m. in a "show of support." After public comments, we can then all quietly leave the meeting – or stay if you want to see a Council meeting in operation. I really hope one member of each Birdland household can attend. We should be out by 8-8:15 p.m. Thank you for taking the time to consider this "problem."

Judy Dietrich

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

----- Yahoo! Groups Sponsor ----->

ATTACHMENT D

March 27, 2004

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am requesting that you modify the usage policy for the large athletic field at Ortega Park so that children and families in the neighborhood can get their fair share of access to that wonderful facility. Currently, that large field is overwhelmingly occupied by a very small number of cricket players. It is virtually closed to the general public for the **entire day** almost every Sunday from April through September, the most desirable months of the year for park usage. The actual 2003 field schedule shows 18 of 25 Sundays allocated to cricket. For those of us that work Monday through Friday, the weekends are the only possible days we can access the park. And since Saturdays are appropriately dedicated to youth activities, **the Sunday park exclusion eliminates 100% of our potential field access! THIS IS A MAJOR IMPACT.**

The Ortega athletic field is large; it has two full sized baseball fields.

One **SHORT** cricket game lasts **6 hours** (longer if breaks are included). If played at Ortega, it requires the **entire athletic field**. So currently, 22 players monopolize the field from 9AM until dusk to play one game. **That is an incredibly low average usage of 3 people per hour!** There is no sharing of the field during these games. There is no sharing all day long.

All other sports require **much less time than cricket**. For example, soccer is an hour and a half and baseball is 2 and a half hrs. And these sports use **only part of the field**. There is plenty of sharing during these games. Residents wanting a portion of the field can be accomodated **even while games are in progress!**

Cricket: SO MUCH PARK, SO FEW PEOPLE, SUCH A LONG TIME!

Neighborhood parks are primarily meant to be shared by residents, not monopolized by special interest groups. In the interest of fairness and sharing, let's modify the athletic field usage policy.

Please review the attached document for additional important details regarding this issue.

Recommendation:

Open a portion of the field to public use (non-permitted) from 12 PM to dusk every Sunday. For those periods, no full-field permits will be granted, no organized activity will consume more than one-half of the athletic field. **300 of my neighbors have signed a petition requesting this change.**

I hope we can work together to allow the neighborhood families back out to the field on Sundays for activities like flying kites, frisbee, playing "catch", baseball games, soccer games, and volleyball.

Please tell me what steps you will take to resolve this problem.

Sincerely,

Charles Clark, Jr.

Sunnyvale Grants Exclusive use of Athletic Field at Ortega Park to Cricket Club!

Citizens Excluded!

Summary of Problem

- almost EVERY SUNDAY
- ONE cricket game
- ALL DAY
- SAME 22 people
- monopolize HUGE field

Very low usage rate
while local
residents are
denied access!

$$\frac{22 \text{ players}}{8 \text{ hrs}} = 2.8 \text{ players / hr}$$

What other cities do.....

- they DO NOT ALLOW cricket teams to monopolize ANY facility. San Jose, Santa Clara, Cupertino.

Our petition...

- 300 residents signed petition demanding that Sunnyvale limit cricket to HALF DAY. 98% acceptance rate!
- 7 of 8 City Council candidates agree that situation appears to be unfair. Ron Swegles and Pete Richards agreed to sign the petition.

Cricket club response...

- to sharing the field, "SHARING IS NOT AN OPTION" (quote in Sunnyvale SUN newspaper)

Parks and Rec. response...

- Problem presented to Parks and Recreation Commission... they took

NO ACTION. Commissioner, Raymond Pole, is an admitted advocate of cricket; not concerned about unfairness of situation.

It's also the \$\$\$\$...

- Cricket pays \$150/day for entire field. Comparable space costs 4 TIMES as much at Twin Creeks where adult soccer, baseball, etc. clubs play! A SWEET DEAL!!!

The invasion continues...

- cricket players hold long practices on Saturdays and some weeknights and exclude local residents by "coning off" the entire field. Often NONE of the players are from Sunnyvale!

Next...

- get City Council involved

DETAILS

The Problem

Ortega Park athletic field is closed on most Sundays. It is reserved for exclusive use by 22 cricket players (11 per team) for the entire day. Home team probably has less than half Sunnyvale residents. Visiting teams are from Fresno, Sacramento, Berkeley, etc. Average use: 3 PEOPLE PER HOUR! It is estimated that only 5 of those players are Sunnyvale residents. Average use: LESS THAN 1 SUNNYVALE RESIDENT PER HOUR!

Meanwhile, local residents must drive cars to other parks for recreation. Our kids are unable to walk to field and use it.

ALL OTHER SPORTS SHARE THE FIELD. Baseball, ultimate frisbee, soccer, etc. allow residents to simultaneously use parts of the field on Sundays (SHARING). Other sports do not monopolize the ENTIRE field the ENTIRE day (SHARING).

Grossly unfair, out of 25 prime Sundays (April-October):

- 18 Sundays - cricket club
- 3 Sundays - our Youth (organized softball, etc.)
- 4 Sundays - open to residents

During the winter months (November through March), permits are not allowed in order to protect the fields during the wet season. So, of the "permissible" months, almost all the Sundays are given to the cricket club!

Results of Petition

Overwhelming agreement among Ortega Park area residents is that it is UNFAIR that cricket monopolizes the field. 300 signatures favor change to get public use at least 50% of the day on Sundays. Only 5 people did not sign since they either did not mind the cricket usage or did not want to anger a friend who plays cricket. About 20 people did not get involved because they don't get involved in anything. Fewer than 15 residents petitioned realized that only 22 players were monopolizing the entire field all day. The vast majority had the false impression that a cricket game is reasonably short in duration, like baseball.

Support from City Council Candidates

Last November, 7 of 8 city council candidates

heard our proposal and agreed that this seems to be an unfair situation. Ron Swegles (current council member) signed and Pete Richards agreed to sign. Virtually all others pledged to help resolve situation.

What Neighboring Cities are Doing

Spoke with neighboring cities and found that they refuse to give an entire athletic field for an entire weekend day to any cricket team because of THE IMPACT TO LOCAL RESIDENTS (San Jose, Santa Clara, Cupertino). They give highest priority to youth activities. And they strive for a balance. We have lost balance in Sunnyvale.

Residents with children want change

Residents with children see the unfairness of the situation. The one-square mile neighborhood surrounded by Fremont, Homestead, Wolfe, and Sunnyvale-Saratoga roads have only Ortega and Panama fields available without crossing MAJOR streets. Most parents prefer to keep their children away from busy streets and want to keep the open spaces available to children as much as possible.

Are Sunnyvale children a Priority after all?

Youth soccer teams travel to Morgan Hill to play soccer games every weekend during soccer seasons! Why don't the youth have priority at Sunnyvale parks? Sunnyvale says one thing and does another regarding youth priority. Our children do not have a voice in this matter.

Cricket club response to petition

The Sunnyvale Sun newspaper published an article in November in which the cricket club was asked about our proposal to share the field on Sundays. A club member and ex-president (who lives in Saratoga) responded: "SHARING IS NOT AN OPTION".

Sunnyvale Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Presented this situation to Parks and Recreation Commission (5 members of the community involved with Parks and Rec. issues) and discovered that the man chairing the meeting is a cricket fan who believes that we should give up our rights to Ortega Park because the cricket players have a hard time finding places to play their games! Of course they do; their demands are unreasonable. The commission decided not to take this issue as an agenda item, so the next stop for us is the city council. SO ALL OF US ARE FORCED TO GIVE UP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIELD SO THAT

PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE VALLEY WILL HAVE A PLACE TO PLAY CRICKET!!!!!!

Why does the city feel that they owe the cricket club a park at the expense of the residents of Ortega Park and Sunnyvale? The city has decided that the residents of Ortega Park are simply casualties in this matter. City officials live near other parks and don't have to deal with such a problem.

Concerns about ever increasing monopolization of Ortega fields by cricket activities to the exclusion of residents

Increasing number of incidents on non-Sundays in which local residents are being squeezed out of the athletic field. Since the concrete cricket slab is located in the middle of the field, other cricket teams from outside Sunnyvale are now descending on the field throughout the week and weekends. They cone-off the entire field and claim "first come, first served" and stay as long as they want (can be all day). This unfriendly attitude has led to several incidents that had to be resolved with the help of Sunnyvale Police. On a recent Saturday, a group of cricket players were asked if they had a permit to take the entire field, and they lied about having one. Then the police were called to verify the permit and it was discovered that no permit was issued and none of the players were from Sunnyvale!

Similar tensions existed at community tennis courts before the 1-hour limitations were imposed to force people to share the courts. Now those tensions are gone.

We expect more incidents like this and we expect to have to fight for our rights to the fields. What is not tolerated by other cities is becoming commonplace at Ortega Park. At this rate, we expect to have more reductions in available field usage for our families in the future.

"World renowned" cricket club

The so-called "world renowned" cricket club should rent space at Twin Creeks like other adult sports teams do **(at 4 times the cost!)**. Instead they rip-off local residents by monopolizing our field. The cricket club has been taking advantage of the community by "coning-off" the field without permits and keeping residents out for as long as they please. When they see the cones, residents naturally assume that permits have been issued and politely go elsewhere. This trick has worked for years! The cricket club does not demonstrate world class behavior.

The BOTTOM LINE

Local residents have sacrificed... now want the field to be shared.

Open spaces are important to local families.

Stop cricket at noon; public access begins at noon.

Or, move cricket game to larger facility.



December 11, 2003

Mr. Ravi Pindiprolu
President
Sunnyvale Cricket Club
4892 Elester Drive
San Jose CA 95124

Dear Mr. Pindiprolu:

At last night's Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, two members of the public communicated concerns regarding what they perceive to be monopolization of Ortega Park by cricket players. The Commission chose not to agendaize this matter or to further review it; and, as you know based on previous communications, the City does not at present intend to change its operational practices in terms of reserving Ortega Park's athletic field unless directed to do so by City Council.

I do want to suggest to you, however, that further dialogue between your club and this department may be in the best interests of all concerned. While staff believes that the current practice of providing the Sunnyvale Cricket Club exclusive use of the Ortega Park multi-purpose field for 18 to 20 Sundays a year (at a cost of approximately \$150 per day) is reasonable, staff would like to discuss with you what transpires on this field outside of those permitted times.

It is some residents' perception that cricket players dominate the field too often outside these permitted times as well, and staff would appreciate an opportunity to discuss this issue with you. Staff realizes that not all cricket players using Ortega Park are associated with the Sunnyvale Cricket Club and that you have no control over or responsibility for the actions of others. Nor at this point is staff saying there is a problem. We'd simply like to discuss related issues with you.

Please understand that the issue of balancing the community's seemingly insatiable appetite for athletic fields presents an increasingly difficult challenge for the City given its finite number of fields. Youth versus adult; resident versus

non-resident; permitted versus non-permitted; prime time versus non prime-time; baseball versus soccer versus you-name-it; concern for maintaining the condition of the City's fields (i.e. taking them out of service periodically)—all these competing factors complicate what may seem at first a rather simple task.

Over the past few years, staff has performed two intensive studies on behalf of the City Council which have some bearing on this matter and which reflect in part the community's interest in related issues. One was a study regarding the carrying capacity of the City's parks; the other reviewed park enforcement issues. Each of these studies touched on the fact that some residents are disturbed by what they perceive to be a reduction in neighborhood accessibility to local park facilities due to the frequent use of those facilities by large groups from outside the neighborhood.

While the results of those studies found that the City's parks are not being used beyond capacity and that enforcement efforts were reasonably successful, Council did also approve staff's recommendation that it work collaboratively and proactively with neighborhood and other special interest groups (such as yours) to address specific issues related to park use as they arise.

Please do not misinterpret the intent or spirit of this letter. At this point, staff is simply researching citizen concerns. There is no rule or regulation precluding your use of Sunnyvale's parks. In fact, the City strongly supports the Sunnyvale Cricket Club and its use of Ortega Park. Sunnyvale's Open Space Sub-Element—a part of the City's General Plan approved by Council—endorses providing these facilities to all residents, workers and visitors to our City.

Staff would, however, appreciate an opportunity to sit down with you to discuss related issues (e.g., the importance of Sunnyvale's parks to your club; the times of day and year you generally utilize Ortega Park; any information you might have regarding the use of Ortega Park by other cricket players; the number of Sunnyvale residents served by your club (there is no requirement that this be a certain number or percentage); how we might work together to resolve neighborhood concerns; how various changes in City practice and/or policy might impact your club, etc.)

You can expect a call within the next week or two from Parks and Recreation staff, inquiring about your willingness to meet and your availability for such a dialogue. I realize you are very busy but request you give this matter some thought and that you consider the merits of our meeting in the near future.

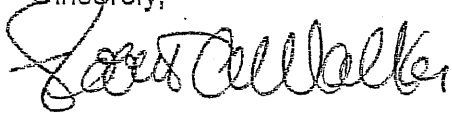
Mr. Ravi Pindiprolu

-3-

December 11, 2003

My very best wishes to you and your club members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent than the last name "Walker".

Robert A. Walker, Director
Parks and Recreation Department
(408) 730-7516
rwalker@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

RAW/ks

c: City Council
City Manager
Parks and Recreation Commission
Parks and Recreation Managers